



## Congressman Tom Udall



It is our responsibility to ensure that the policies we pursue are consistent with the values we cherish. The Administration's 2006 budget fails in every respect. It is fiscally reckless, adding trillions to the deficit over the next 10 years. It is morally irresponsible, slashing funding for key homeland security, veterans benefits, health care, and education programs. I am fighting to restore fiscal responsibility and to uphold the key values that are the foundation of a strong and secure middle class: national security, prosperity, community, fairness, accountability and opportunity.

**Cuts Education Department funding below this year's level.** For the fourth year in a row, education is shortchanged – this year, for the first time, education funding is below the current-year level. The budget is cutting education funding despite rising college costs and the challenging academic requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act.

**Shortchanges education reform efforts by \$12 billion.** The Administration's budget provides \$12 billion less for education than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act – meaning that 3 million children will not get the help with reading and math that they were promised under Title I. Overall, since the No Child Left Behind Act was signed into law, President Bush has underfunded the law by \$39 billion.

**Guts Head Start.** Once again, the budget proposes turning Head Start into a block grant program that eliminates comprehensive educational, health, and nutrition services that children in this program currently receive. In addition, the budget freezes Head Start funding at this year's level, meaning that 25,000 children will have to be cut from the program next year – despite the fact that Head Start is currently serving only 60 percent of eligible preschoolers.

**Shuts 1.7 million children out of after-school programs.** The budget provides \$1.3 billion less for after school programs than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act – meaning that 1.7 million children will be left without a safe place to play and learn after school.

**Shortchanges special education for 6.9 million children.** The budget provides \$3.5 billion less than promised for special education in the IDEA Improvement Act enacted by Congress just two months ago, providing local school systems with less than half of the funding they are owed by the federal government.

**Misleads the public about high school reform.** The Administration has trumpeted the investment of more than \$1 billion in high school reform efforts. In reality, over \$600 million of these funds are required to continue existing grants made for other education programs. In addition, the remaining resources are being taken from existing programs.

**Freezes bilingual education for the fourth year in a row.** The budget freezes bilingual education at \$676 million, even though the number of students with limited English proficiency is growing rapidly. This proposal provides no increase for bilingual education for the fourth year in a row.

**Eliminates Safe and Drug-Free Schools.** The budget completely eliminates funding for the \$437 million Safe and Drug Free Schools program. This means no federal resources to ensure safety and reduce drug abuse in our schools. This elimination will compromise existing efforts to ensure safe learning environments and safeguard students from terrorist threats.



**Eliminates education technology.** The Administration's budget also completely eliminates funding for the \$496 million Educational Technology State Grant program, despite the fact that studies have shown that technology can substantially raise student achievement.

**Eliminates GEAR-UP, Upward Bound, and Talent Search.** The budget completely eliminates the \$306 million GEAR-UP, \$313 million Upward Bound, and \$150 million Talent Search programs – which ensure that high-risk students succeed in high school and move on to college. As a result, about 1.3 million students – 70 percent of whom are minorities – will lose the support they need to make it to college.

**Eliminates vocational education.** The budget completely eliminates the \$1.3 billion vocational education program, destroying innovative career and technical education programs for students attending high school and community college. Eliminating vocational education cuts off a pipeline to job opportunities in emerging fields such as telecommunications and health care for millions of students.

**Jeopardizes aid to children of military families.** The budget freezes Impact Aid funding, jeopardizing programs and services for the children of military families.

**Breaks promise to raise the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,100.** While campaigning in 2000, candidate George W. Bush pledged to make college more affordable and accessible by increasing the maximum Pell Grant for college freshmen to \$5,100. And yet the President breaks his promise once again in this budget, only increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$100 – from \$4,050 to \$4,150 – falling nearly \$1,000 short of his promise to students. President Bush is breaking this promise at a time when college tuition is rising rapidly.

**Eliminates Perkins Loans.** The budget completely eliminates the Perkins Loan program. If this proposal is enacted, just in 2006 alone more than 670,000 student borrowers would lose out on loan forgiveness if they became teachers, law enforcement officers or if they serve in the military.

**Forces millions of low and middle-income students to pay thousands more for their college loans.** The budget eliminates the current low fixed consolidation rate benefit. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS), this change will force the typical student borrower to pay \$5,500 more for their college loans.

**Eliminates an additional 41 education programs.** In addition to eliminating Safe and Drug-Free Schools, education technology, GEAR-UP, Upward Bound, Talent Search, vocational education, and Perkins Loans, the budget eliminates an additional 41 education programs, including Even Start and Ready to Teach, for a total cut of \$4.3 billion. Attached is a complete list of the 48 education programs eliminated in the budget.